

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing cooked rice, comprising steaming raw rice having a water content of less than 30 % by weight and then boiling the steamed rice with the proviso that the raw rice is not soaked in water prior to said steaming.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the raw rice has a water content of from 14 to 29 % by weight.
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the raw rice has a water content of from 20 to 26 % by weight.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the raw rice has a water content of from 21 to 24 % by weight.
5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the raw rice is a wash rice type.
6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the raw rice is a wash-free milled rice type.
7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the raw rice is steamed for a period of from 10 to 30 minutes.
8. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the raw rice is steamed at a temperature of from 90 to 100°C.
9. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein water at a temperature of 50°C or more is added to the steamed rice before boiling.
10. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein water at a temperature of from 70 to 80°C is added to the steamed rice before boiling.
11. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising adding a seasoning to the rice during steaming or boiling, or during both steaming and boiling, or to the ~~boiled~~ rice obtained after said method.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the seasoning is a seasoning used in pilaf, Chinese fried rice, dry curry, paella or buttered rice with chicken.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising steaming the rice after boiling.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the boiled rice is steamed at a temperature of 90°C or more.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the steamed rice before boiling has a gelatinization degree of from 15 to 35 %.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the steamed rice before boiling has a gelatinization degree of from 18 to 30 %.

17. (Original) Cooked rice prepared according to the method of Claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A cooked rice ~~type~~ product comprising the cooked rice of Claim 17.

19. (Currently Amended) A cooked rice ~~type~~ product according to Claim 18 which is selected from the group consisting of pilaf, Chinese fried rice, dry curry rice, paella and buttered rice with chicken.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 11, 18, and 19 have been amended.

The amendment of Claim 1 is supported by the specification as originally filed, for example at page 2, lines 15-16, page 2, line 24 to page 3, line 2, and page 5, lines 16-18. The amendment of Claims 11 and 18 is supported by the corresponding claims and the specification as originally filed. The amendment of Claim 19 is supported by the corresponding claim and the specification as originally filed, for example at page 3, lines 3-7, page 7, lines 17-23, and page 8, lines 3-8.

No new matter has been entered by the present amendment.